

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 10150 201649Z
ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-09 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGRE-00 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05
L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 EPG-02 AID-05
SS-15 STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02
OMB-01 DOTE-00 /106 W
-----014441 202132Z /44

R 201632Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5276
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

UNCLAS LONDON 10150

BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEEC

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, UK
SUBJECT: USITC REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON TRADE IN
AUTOMOBILES

REF: STATE 106667

1. FEW COMPLAINTS HAVE BEEN BROUGHT TO THE EMBASSY'S
ATTENTION IN THE RECENT PAST WHICH FALL IN THE GENERAL
CATEGORY OF US NTBS IMPEDING TRADE IN UK PASSENGER AUTO-
MOBILES. IN FACT, SOME DEPARTMENT OF TRADE OFFICIALS
HAVE IMPLIED THAT THE U.S. MARKET IN PASSENGER CARS IS A
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FAIRLY OPEN ONE. THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF ITEMS WHICH
BOTH GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY SOURCES FEEL HAVE CONSTRAIN-
ED THIS TRADE.
(A) THE U.S. 1975-76 DUMPING INVESTIGATION ON AUTO-
MOBILES FROM THE UK AND OTHER COUNTRIES WAS THE SOURCE
OF CONSIDERABLE COMPLAINING AND IRRITATION HERE. IT WAS
SEEN AS A BREACH OF THE GATT ANTIDUMPING CODE TO START

SUCH AN INVESTIGATION IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY INDICATION OF INJURY. EVEN THOUGH SOME UK GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS RECOGNIZED THE POLITICAL COURAGE NEEDED TO DISCONTINUE THE CASE, THE GREAT UNCERTAINTY INTRODUCED INTO COMMERCIAL RELATIONS DURING THIS PERIOD WAS SEEN AS CAUSING A LOSS OF UK TRADE IN AUTOMOBILES.

(B) THERE IS CURRENTLY SOME UNEASE CAUSED BY THE UNRESOLVED ISSUE OF WHETHER AND HOW REBATES WOULD BE GRANTED TO GAS-EFFICIENT IMPORTED AUTOMOBILES UNDER THE ADMINISTRATION'S ENERGY PROGRAM NOW BEING DEBATED IN CONGRESS. IF SUCH A POLICY CAME INTO EFFECT IN A WAY SEEN AS UNFAIR TO BRITISH CAR EXPORTS TO THE U.S., THERE WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE SERIOUS OBJECTIONS RAISED BY THE UK GOVERNMENT. AGAIN, THE ISSUE OF UNCERTAINTY ABOUT FUTURE U.S. POLICY HAS BEEN RAISED WITH US AS A FACTOR WHICH CAN DISCOURAGE TRADE.

2. THE FOLLOWING THREE ITEMS HAVE ALSO BEEN MENTIONED BY INDUSTRY SOURCES, BUT ARE NOT ISSUES OF THE SAME IMPORTANCE AS THOSE RAISED IN PARA 1.

(A) U.S. FEDERAL AND STATE EXHAUST EMISSION CONTROLS ARE CONSIDERED UNUSUALLY EXPENSIVE AND TIME-CONSUMING IN THAT TESTING MUST BE CONDUCTED IN THE U.S.

(B) U.S. CUSTOMS EVALUATION PROCEDURES ARE SAID TO BE UNDULY COMPLICATED, CREATING UNCERTAINTY AND DIFFICULTY IN TRADING.

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(C) PASSENGER CAR SAFETY REQUIREMENTS (HEADLIGHTS, GLASS, ETC.) ARE SOMETIMES MENTIONED AS BEING SO EXTENSIVE AS TO IMPEDE TRADE.

3. BRITISH LEYLAND SUGGESTS THAT IF ITC WISHES TO HAVE A FIRST-HAND DISCUSSION ON ISSUES BRITISH MANUFACTURERS SEE AS IMPEDING TRADE, CONTACT: GRAHAM WHITEHEAD, PRESIDENT, BRITISH LEYLAND, INC. (U.S.), LEONIA, NEW JERSEY.

4. REQUESTED DATA WILL BE SENT SEPTTEL WHEN UK GOVERNMENT COMPLETES COMPILATION.

BREWSTER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Sent Date: 20-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
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